Eucalyptus Management Plan within the Orchard Timber Harvest Plan

Jackson Demonstration State Forest

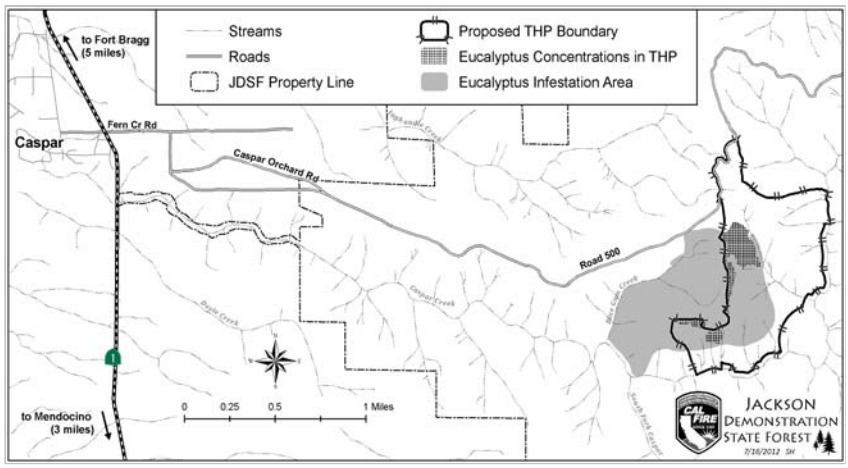
July 9, 2012

Background

A single row of Blue Gum Eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus globlus)* was planted in 1895 as windbreak for an apple orchard. During the 1950s and 1960s some eucalyptus was cut as and logging was conducted in the surrounding native forest. The former orchard was planted with experimental plantings of conifers and about 50 more eucalyptus during the same time period. The eucalyptus has now spread to an approximately 300 acre area. The eucalyptus density varies from isolated individuals to comprising the majority of the overstory.

Planning

The 2008 Jackson Demonstration State Forest Management Plan calls for returning this area to native conifer forest. This area is identified on the short-term harvest schedule as the Orchard Timber Harvest Plan (THP). The staff recognizes that any harvests in the eucalyptus infestation must be carefully planned in order to prevent exacerbating the problem. Incorporated in the Orchard THP is a plan to manage approximately 33 acres of the infestation within the THP area; a thorough environmental analysis will be included.



Goal

Reduce the potential for the eucalyptus to spread or to displace more native species and to demonstrate the feasibility of eucalyptus management at Caspar Orchard.

Forest Visitors

JDSF staff is aware that the public uses several old roads in the eucalyptus area. Access will be maintained or improved where environmentally appropriate to do so. One road segment is poorly drained and may merit decommissioning.

Treatment Options

Two methods have been identified that have been successful in controlling eucalyptus in this area. The first method involves cutting the stem and then exhausting the reserves by repeatedly removing the sprouts up to several times a year for three to five years. This is feasible with limited numbers of stems and with easy access for repeated treatments. It is not feasible for the entire area. The second method is to use herbicides, specifically apply Glyphosate (active ingredient in Roundup) or Imazapyr (active ingredient in Chopper) to fresh stumps or to the stem. Near the roads with public use, the eucalyptus will be felled and stored for firewood cutters. The stumps will be treated with herbicide to prevent resprouting. Isolated from the public use areas, the stems will be treated. They will remain standing till they decay and fall to the ground.

Managing seedlings and follow-up monitoring is critical to the success of the efforts. To minimize post-treatment eucalyptus seedling establishment, slash mulching will be used. By implementing treatments up front, the workload for follow-up is feasible with the current workforce.

Effects of Treatment

These treatments will minimize disturbance of native forest plants. The watercourses will be buffered, to minimize the risk of herbicide reaching the water. Public access will be restored with the exception of the substandard road segment. The extent of eucalyptus competition with the native forest will be reduced by the treatment and it will also provide insight into future eucalyptus management in this area.